

# **Integrated Energy Systems Peer Review Meeting**

*Opryland Hotel – Nashville, Tennessee  
April 30 – May 2, 2002*

## **Thermally-Activated Technologies**

Joel Anderson  
SVP, Mississippi Valley Gas

**“Tomorrow Can Be Beautiful...  
... All It Takes Is A Dream”**

-- Walt Disney

**“Tomorrow Can Be Beautiful...  
... All It Takes Is A Dream”**

-- Walt Disney

**“Plus Commitment, a Plan, Funding  
and Hard Work”**

-- Joel Anderson

# The Ugly

- The U.S. is an energy hog
- E-commerce growing as electric reliability and quality decreases
- Threat of terrorism on increase
  - Aggravated by increase dependence on foreign oil
  - Growing need for energy source diversification
  - Allies upset at U.S. rejection of Kyoto accord

## **The Ugly** *(continued)*

- U.S. biggest polluter among developed countries
  - 50 to 100 thousand people die each year
- Indoor air quality 2 to 10 times worse than outside
- Illness on the increase
  - 17 million Americans have asthma
  - 31 million American develop Sinusitis
  - 37 million Americans suffer from seasonal allergens

# The Beautiful

- Dramatically improved energy efficiencies
  - Reduced dependence on foreign oil
  - Reduced air pollution
- High electric reliability and quality
- Healthy indoor environment

# The Ugly

- Existing remote located power plants
  - Poor efficiencies
    - Range 16% to 50%
    - Typically 30%
  - Additional efficiency losses to transmission and distribution
  - Many plants are large polluters
- Problems associated with aging infrastructure
- Increasing problems associated with high-peak demand

# The Beautiful

- Thermally activated technology
  - On-site generation about 30% efficient
  - Thermally activated equipment gives additional 30% to 50%
- Total energy efficiencies 60% to 80%

# Thermally Activated Technologies

- Buildings
  - Large commercial
  - Small commercial and residential
- **Unitary equipment consumes over 75% of building HVAC energy**

# Thermally Activated Applications

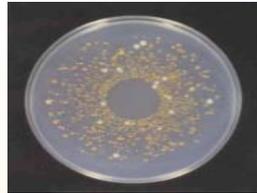
- Humidification
- Dehumidification
- Refrigeration
- Space heating
- Water heating
- Space cooling

# Healthy Indoor Environment

## Indoor Air Quality Problems



**DUST MITES**



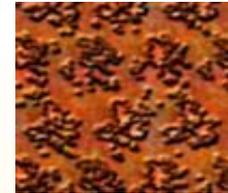
**BACTERIA**



**FUNGUS**



**MOLD DAMAGE**



**CORROSION**

# Statistics on Asthma and Allergic Diseases

- 17 million Americans have asthma and allergic diseases
  - 4.8 million children
  - 7% expectant mothers
  - **Rate on increase**
- 31 million Americans develop sinusitis each year
  - 18 million physician visits
  - \$8 billion in health expenditures
  - 4 days/year missed work days on average
  - **Rate on increase**

# Statistics on Asthma and Allergic Diseases

- 36 million Americans suffer from seasonal allergic Rhinitis

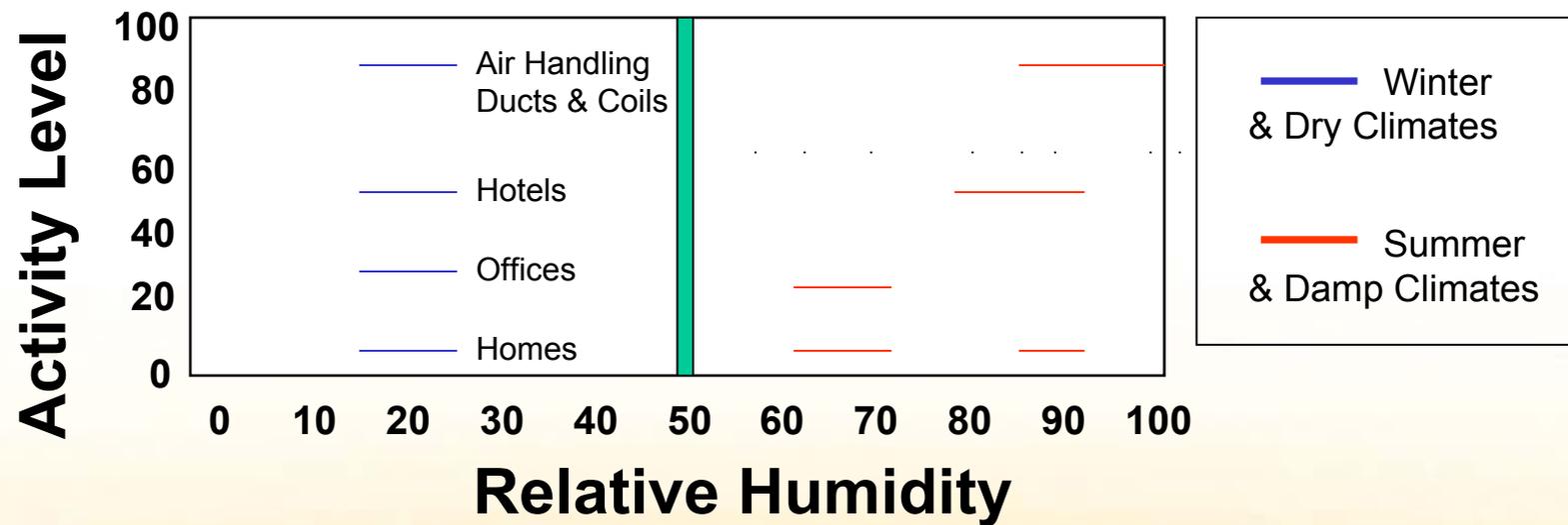
# Healthy Indoor Environment

## Causes of Asthma and Sinusitis

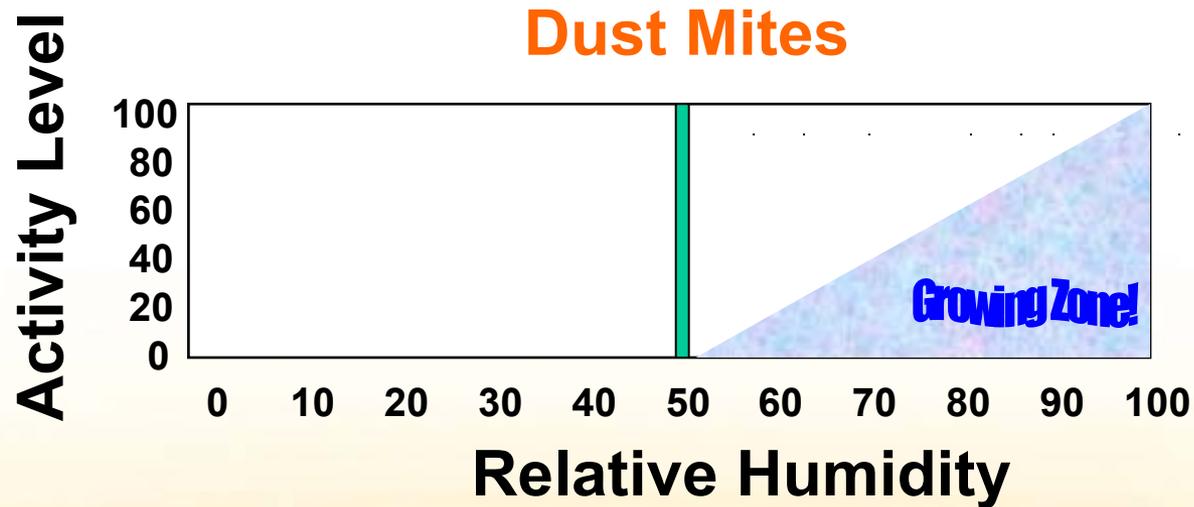
- **Residue from dust mites**, cockroaches and pets
- Tobacco smoke
- **Mold and fungus**
- **Bacteria**
- Pollen and dust



## Observed Relative Humidity In Buildings

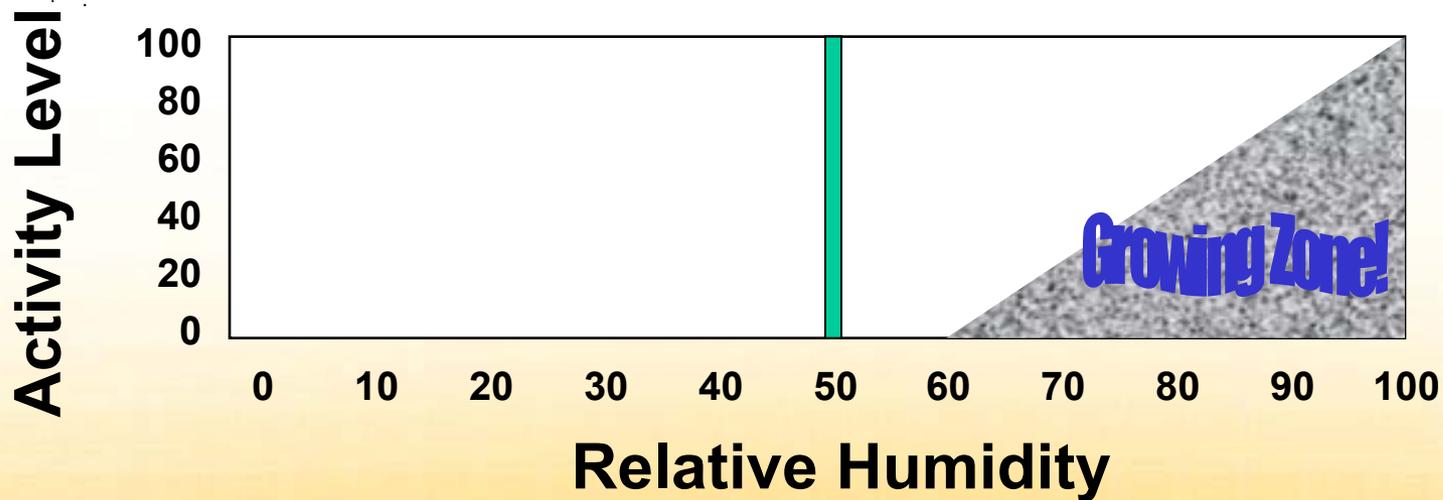


# Optimum Relative Humidity for Minimizing Adverse Health Effects



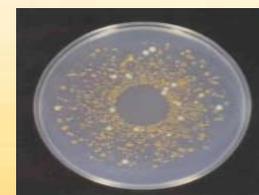
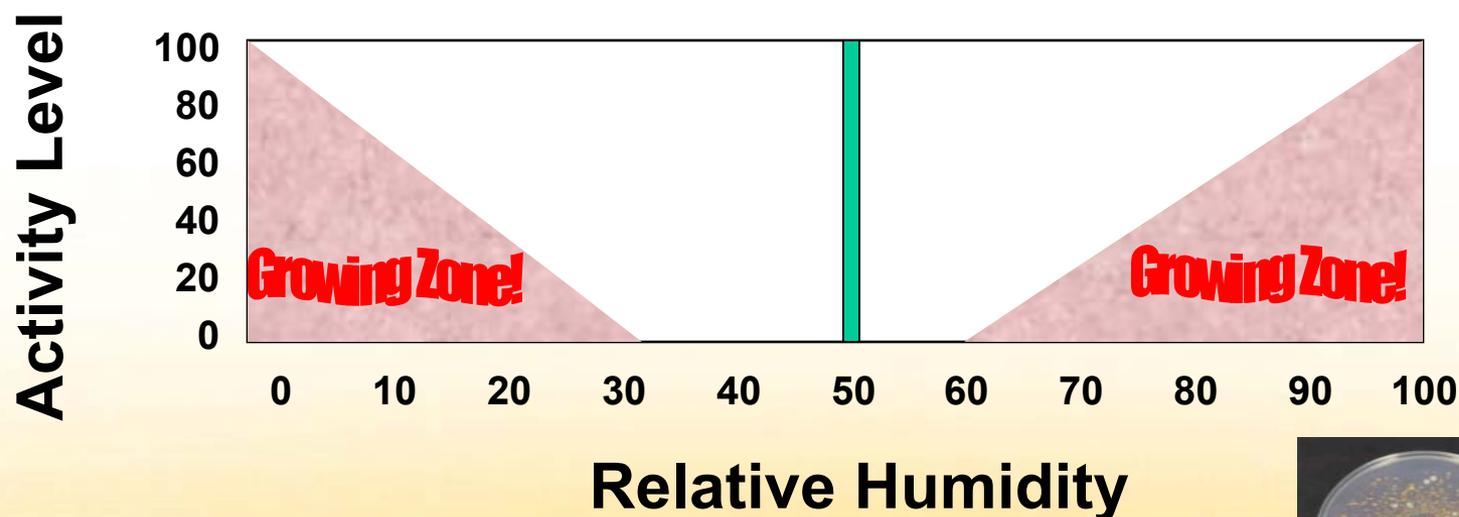
# Optimum Relative Humidity for Minimizing Adverse Health Effects

**Mold & Mildew**



# Optimum Relative Humidity for Minimizing Adverse Health Effects

## Bacteria



BACTERIA

# Residential Desiccant Dehumidifier

*Product Development*

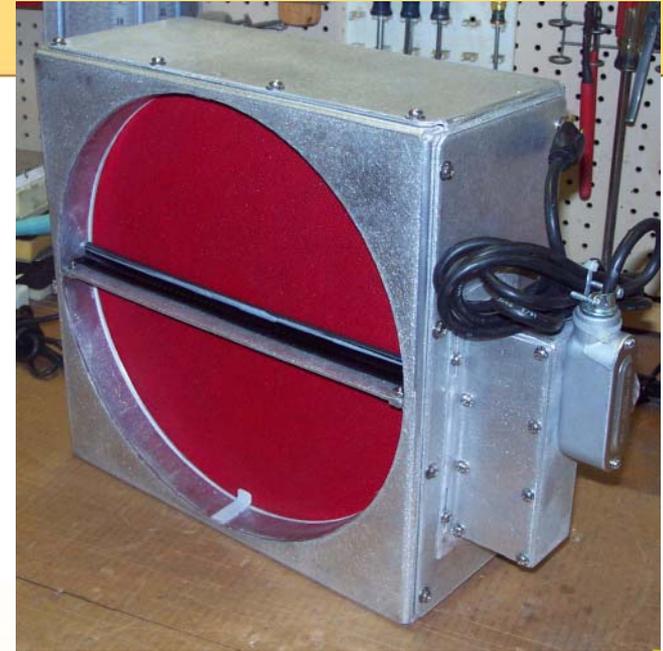


Exergy Partners



# Rotor Cassette

- NREL performance validated
- Munters old design
  - Caster supported rotor design
  - Separate seal
- Redesign
  - Simpler drive assembly
  - Snap together cassette construction



# Alpha Unit Status

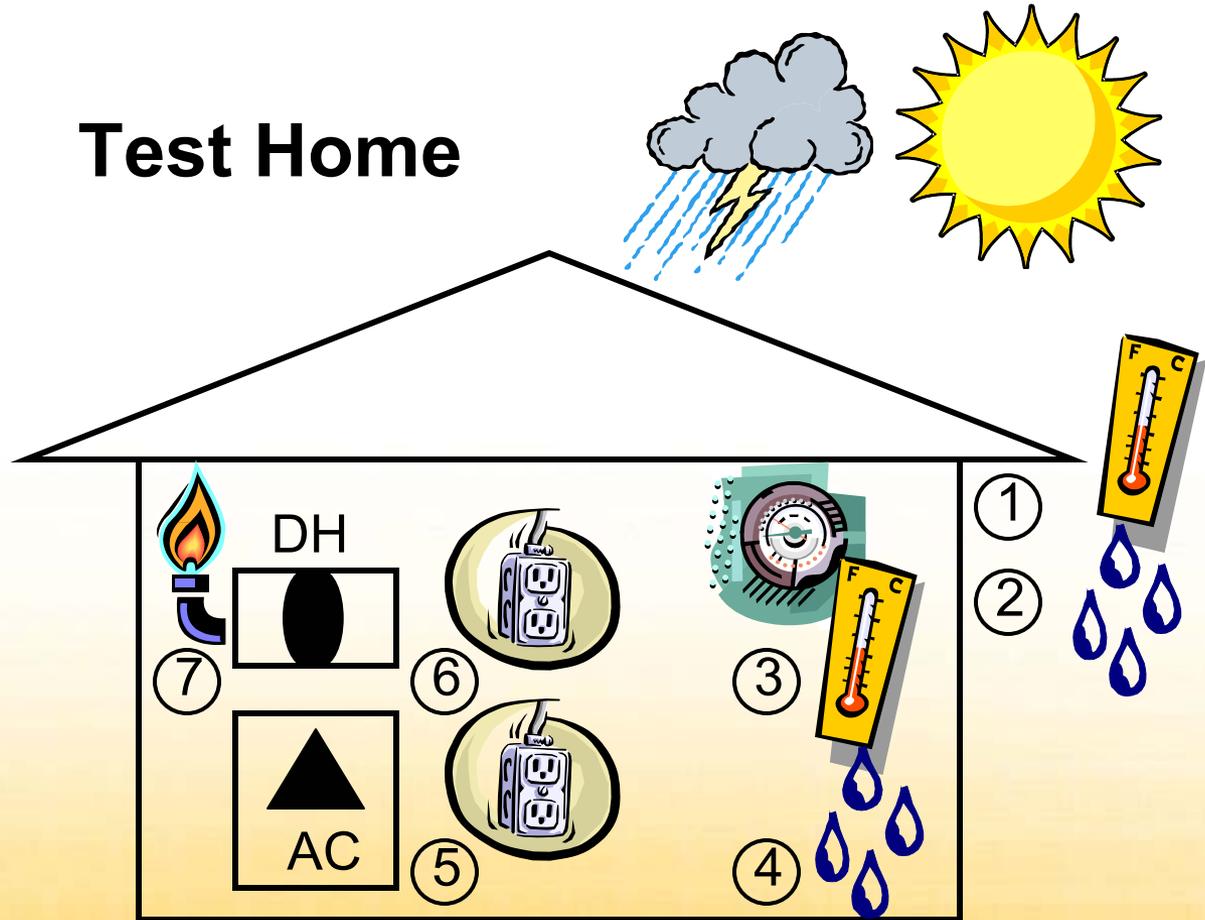
- Prototype Construction
  - Rotor (3 interim alpha prototypes DONE)
  - Burner (3 interim alpha prototypes DONE)
  - Balance of unit (controls, etc. in process)
  
- Laboratory Testing Plans (DONE)
  
- 3 Alphas Ready (DONE)
  - Product meeting (DONE)
  - Heatcraft, MSU & GTI lab tests 5/02
  
- 20 field test units 7/02

# Residential Field Tests

## Sensors

- 1) Outdoor  $T_{db}$
  - 2) Outdoor %RH
  - 3) Indoor  $T_{db}$
  - 4) Indoor %RH
  - 5) AC Watthours
  - 6) DH Watthours
  - 7) DH Gas CF --  
separate utility  
supplied gas meter  
also required
- Note)** A pulse logger  
required for 5, 6, & 7

## Test Home



# **Gas-Fired and Heat-Activated Commercial Refrigeration**

*Solid-Vapor Complex Compound  
Sorption Technology*

# The Technology

## Solid-Vapor Complex Compounds

- Heat activated cycle
- Stationary shell and tube pressure vessels
- Solid-vapor sorption process using ammonia and a solid complex compound substrate
  - Large  $\Delta T$ : Single stage to  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$  suction temp
  - No internal moving parts
  - Minimal electric parasitics

## The Market Need

- Commercial refrigeration with solid-gas sorption technology using natural gas ,propane and/or on-site generation exhaust heat
- Products from 0.7 to 7 refrigeration tons
- Evaporator temperatures from -40°F to 30°F

# Single-Stage Commercial Refrigeration Products

- Applications:
  - Frozen meat and vegetable storage (0 to -10°F)
  - Frozen fish and ice cream storage (-20°F)
  - Fresh meat, fish and vegetable storage (32°F)
- Markets:
  - Supermarkets
  - Fast food and chain restaurants
  - Stores and institutional

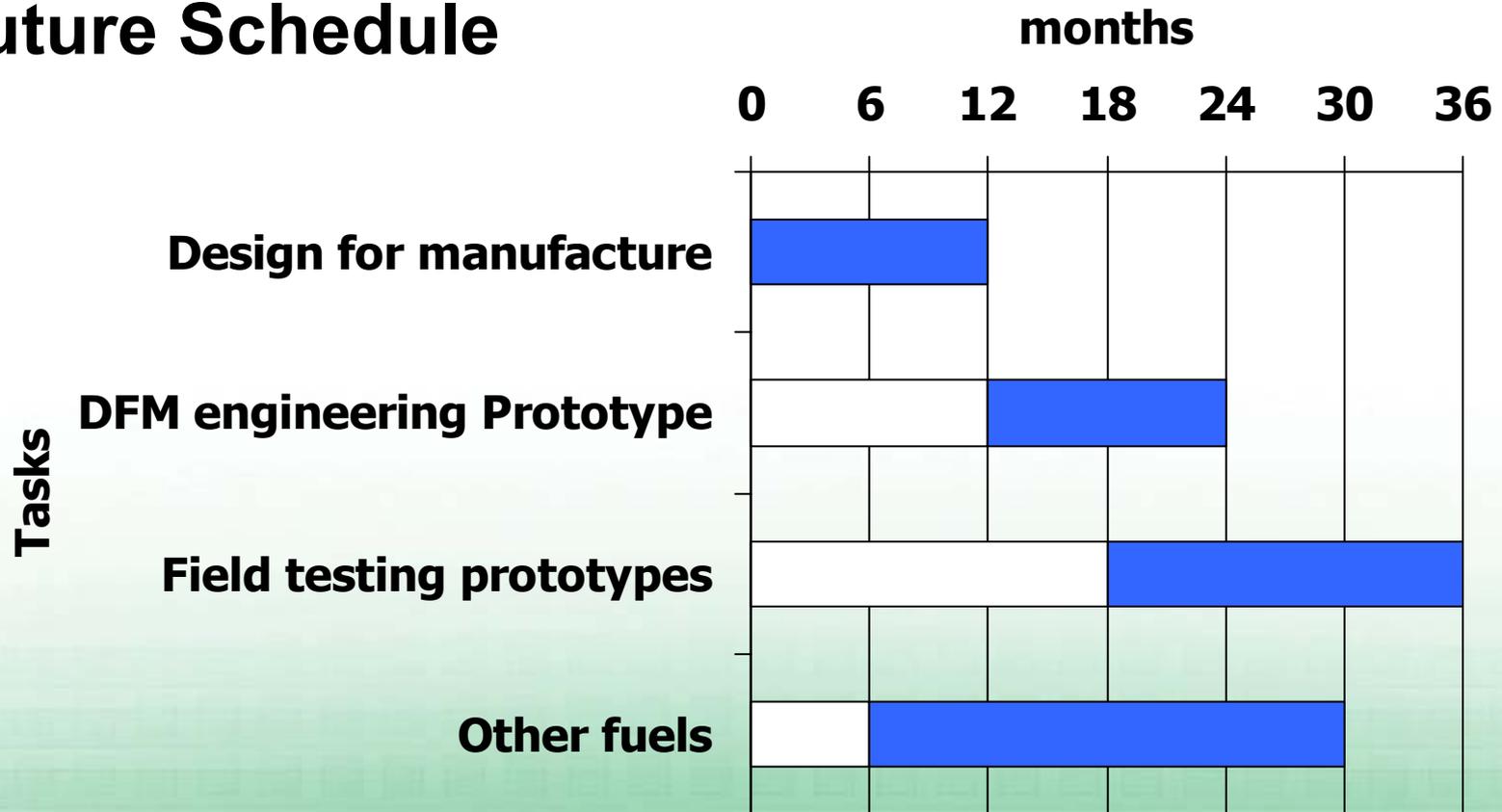
# Product Features

- Natural gas or propane fired
- Compatible with exhaust heat ( $> 500^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) use for DG
  - Engines and microturbines (Capstone)
- Reduced peak electrical demand
- Low temperature capability ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- No moving parts (except fans, valves)
- No “compressor” lubrication
- No CFCs, HCFCs (uses ammonia)
- Hermetic
- Hot gas defrost
- No compressor noise or vibration
- Low maintenance

## Product Design Status

- Sorber design is completed
- A single sorber has been tested successfully for more than 3,500 cycles (60,000 cycles for smaller sorbers)
- Burner-sorber integration design is completed
- Prototype design is completed
- Firing system has been assembled and tested
- Two prototype sorbers have been assembled
- A low-cost generator design has been developed
- All other prototype components have been fabricated and ready for final assembly
- Prototype tested November 2001

# Future Schedule



**Thank You**

**The Future is in Thermally Activated Technologies**





A New Product Line Based on Advanced  
Natural Gas Absorption Technology

Uwe Rockenfeller, Ph.D.  
CEO, Rocky Research

## Rocky Research

- DOE contractor through ORNL subcontract
- Responsible for:
  - Research
  - Prototyping
  - Application engineering
  - Design for manufacture
- Sixteen years of experience in gas-driven and ammonia HVACR products



## Our Primary Objective

- Develop a residential and commercial air conditioning and heating system to...
  - Exceed current industry performance via higher energy efficiency
  - Improve comfort and health via improved part load dehumidification
  - Achieve commercial viability through vigorous DFM, manufacturing process optimization, special equipment and dedicated tooling

## Specific Technical Goals

- Achieve a cooling product efficiency of  $\text{COP} = 0.7$  @  $95^{\circ}\text{F}$  without significant part load degradation
- Provide Unitary packaged product with 60,000 BTU/hr @  $95^{\circ}\text{F}$  with minimal capacity reduction at higher temperatures
- Develop a product design/manufacturing process capable of yielding a manufacturer's product cost of \$2500 for 5RT units at annual volumes of 10,000



## Specific Technical Goals *(continued)*

- Achieve a heating product efficiency of COP = 1.4 @ 47°F with minimal efficiency degradation down to 25°F
- Provide a heating capacity of at least 60,000 BTU/hr at or below 47°F
- Develop heat pump hardware capable of operating and providing heat at or below 17°F
- Provide air terminal delivery temperatures at 5° to 10°F above current electric heat pump systems

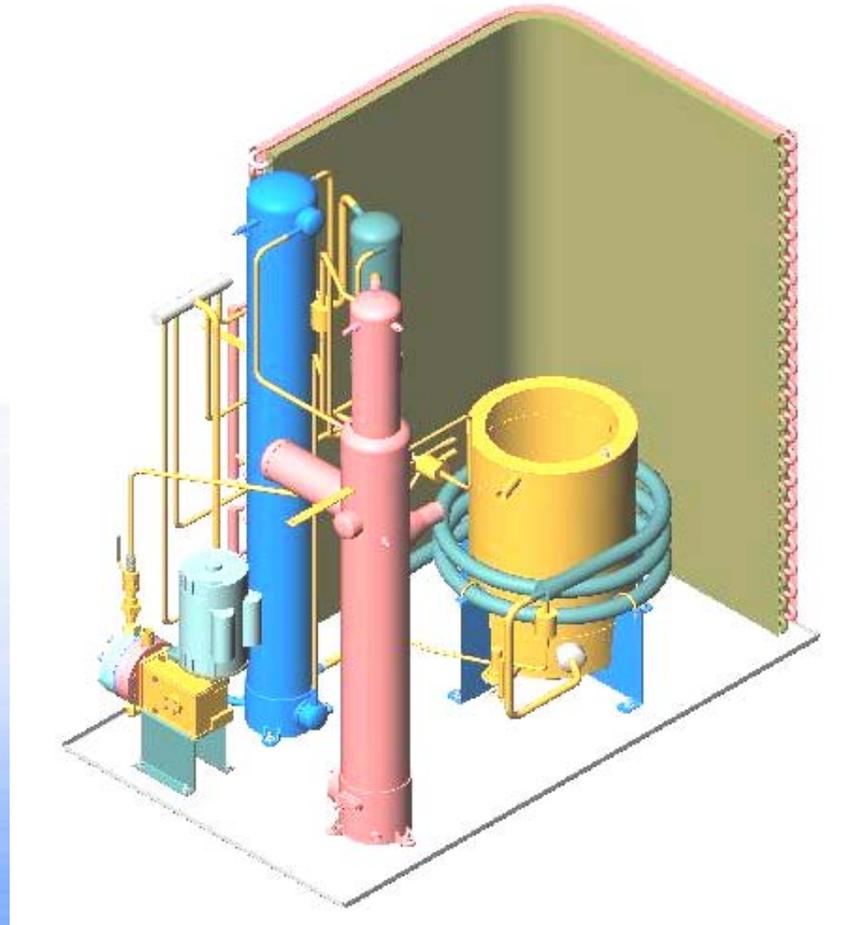


**AMBIAN**  
CLIMATE TECHNOLOGIES



## The Technology

- Heat-activated ammonia-water absorption system





## The Technology *(continued)*

- High performance heat transfer components
  - Generator/Absorber Heat Exchanger
  - High efficiency vapor separation
  - Novel heat transfer surface in absorber
  
- Advanced combustion technology
  - Low emissions
  - Variable speed combustion



## The Technology *(continued)*

- Improved solution pump
  - High  $\Delta p$  capability for heat pumping
  - Low electric power consumption
  
- Active fluid controls
  - Patented thermal expansion valve refrigerant control
  - Solution flow control
  
- No chromate inhibitors
  - Proprietary cooperative development of environmentally benign inhibitor

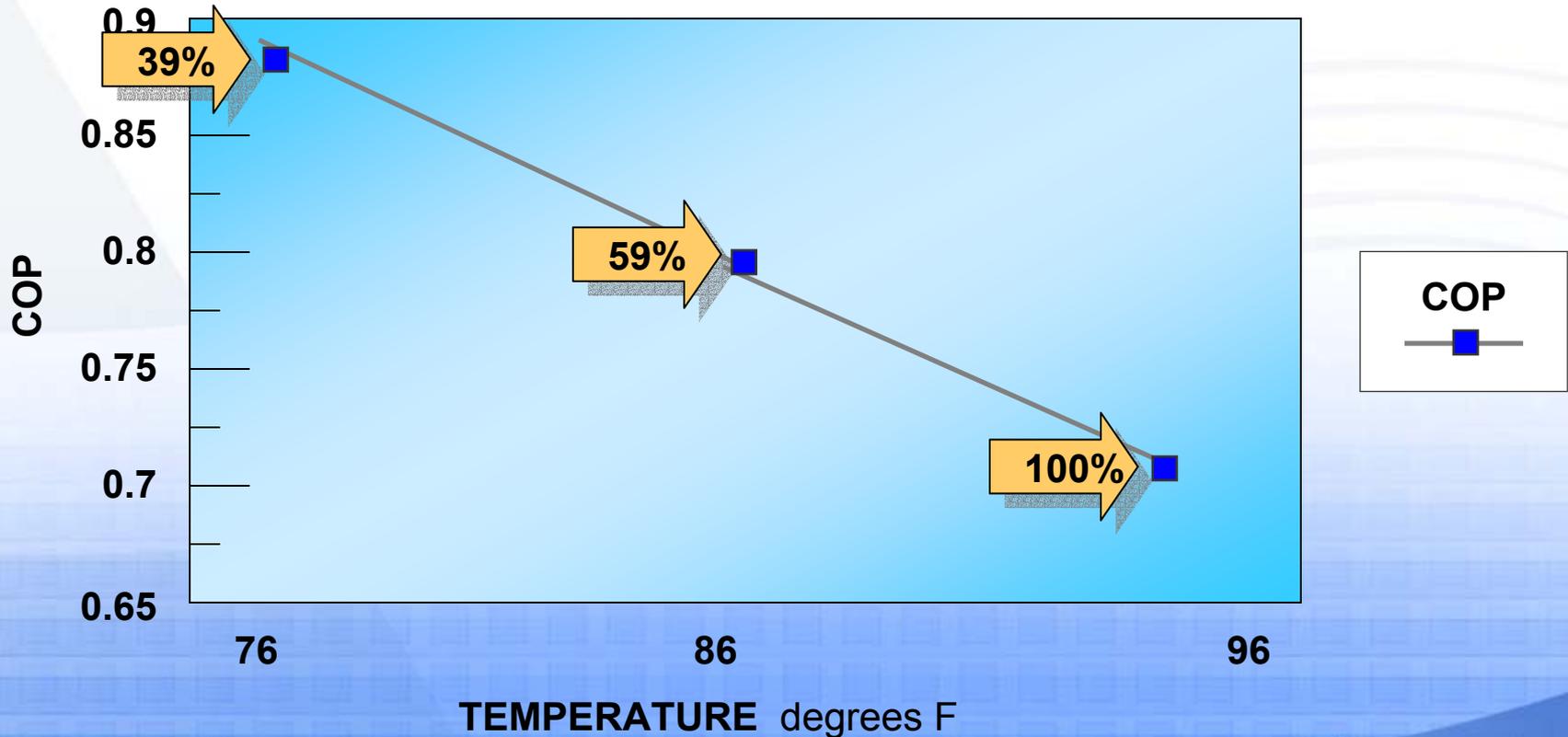


## Product Lines



- Chiller
- Chiller/Heater
- Water Heater/Dehumidifier/AC
- Heat Pump

## Competitive Advantage Achieved *Cooling Energy Efficiency*

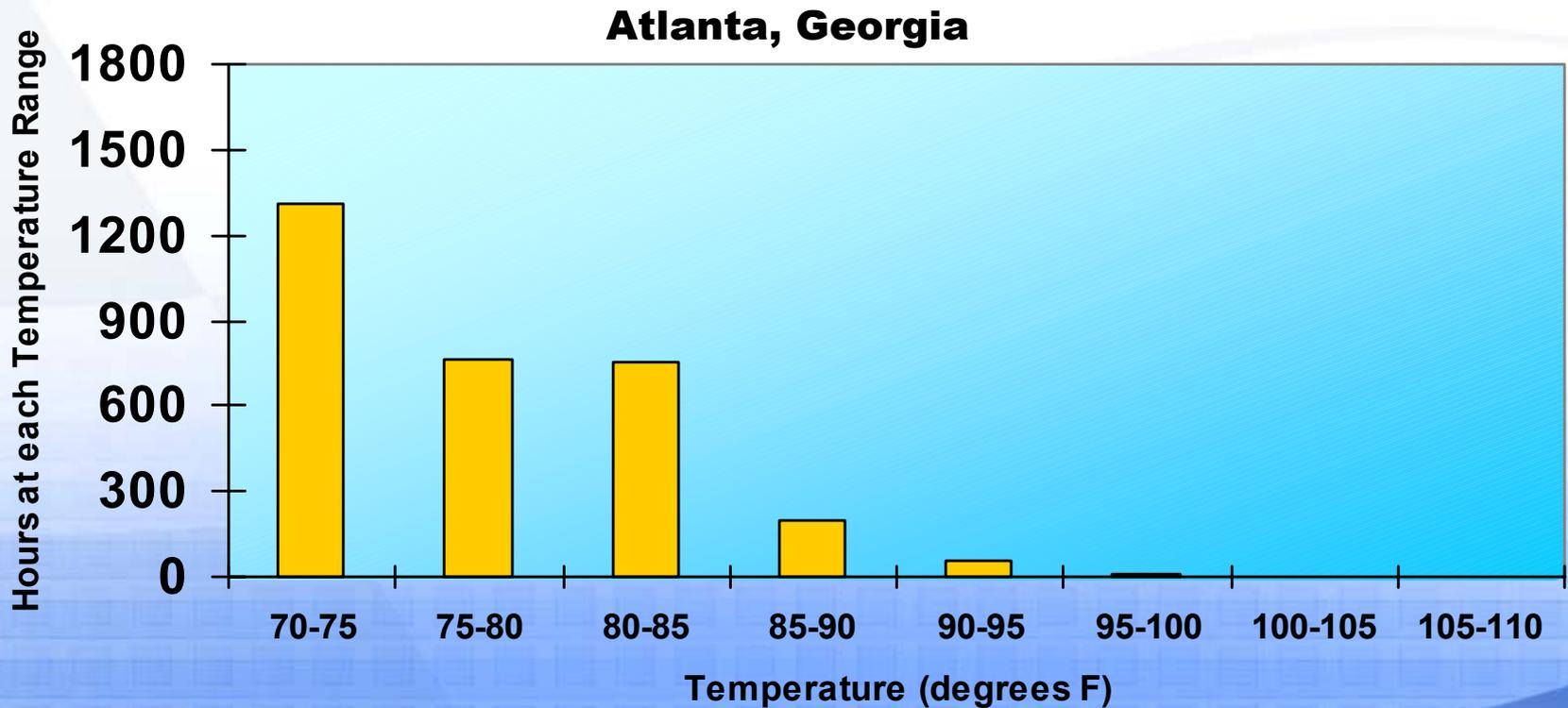




# Competitive Advantage Achieved

## *Cooling Energy Efficiency*

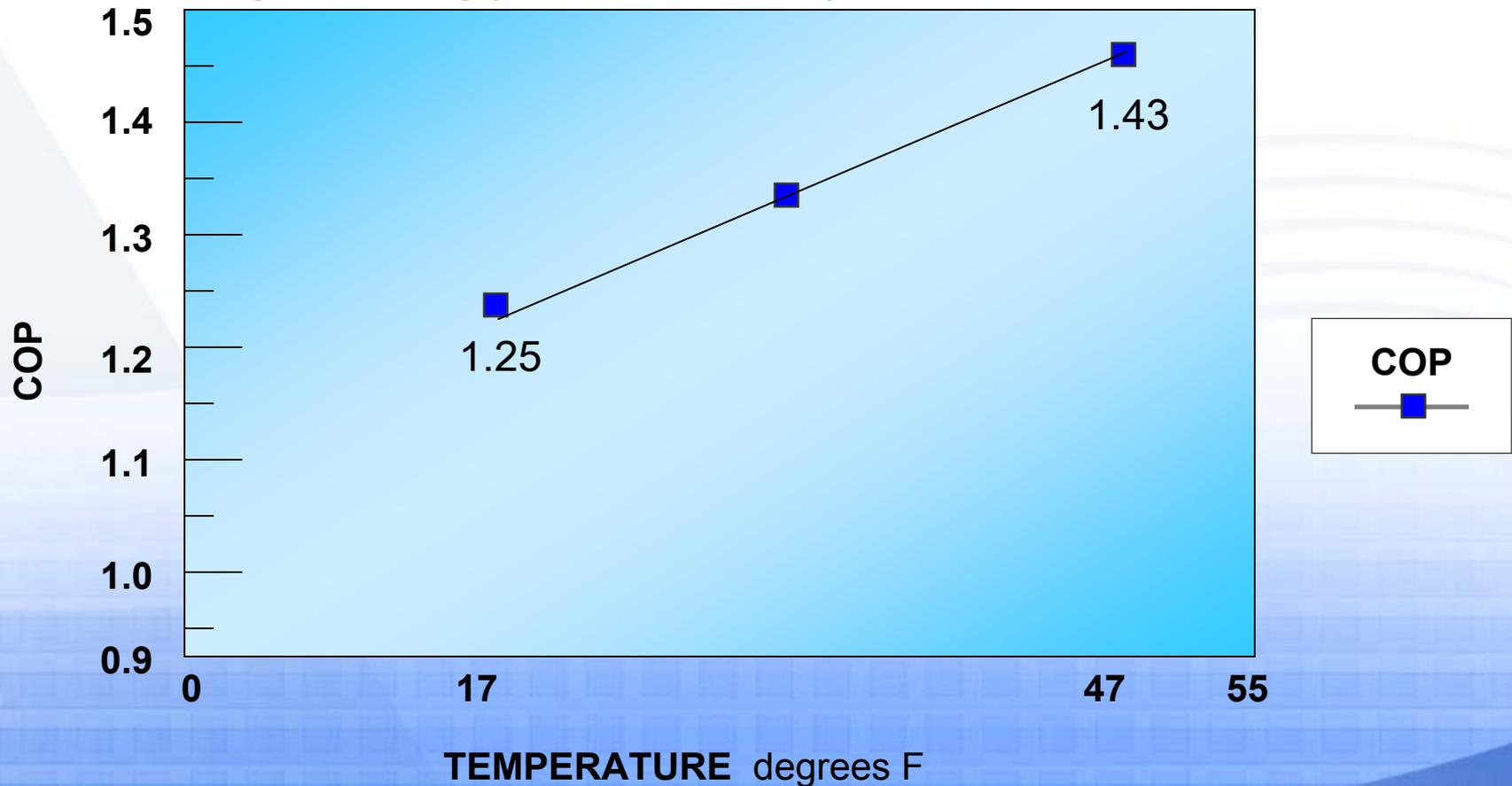
### Part Load COP<sub>c</sub> Impact on Commercial Viability





# Competitive Advantage Achieved

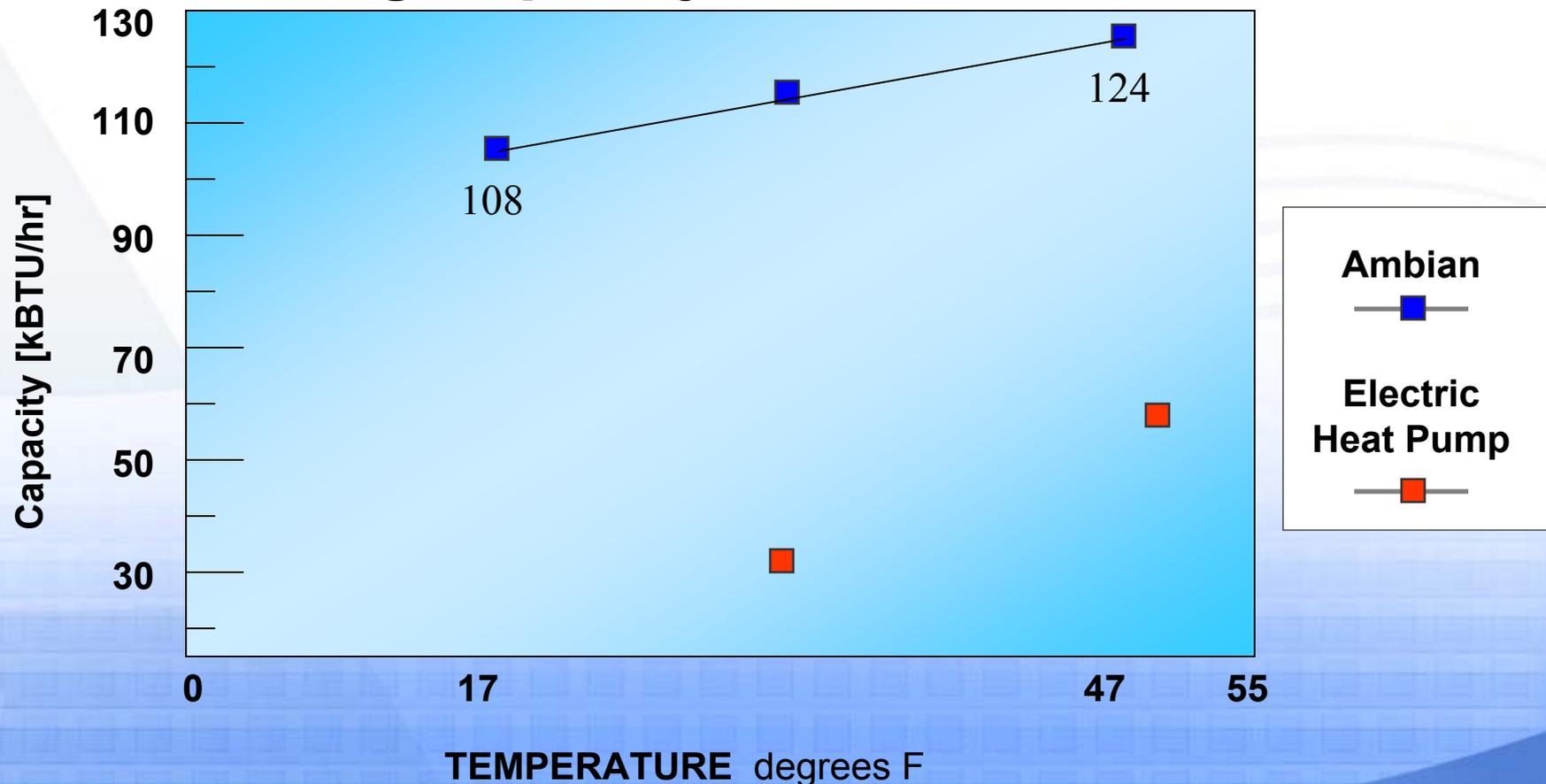
## *Heating Energy Efficiency*





# Competitive Advantage Achieved

## *Full Heating Capacity*



## **Competitive Advantage Achieved**

### ***Additional Heat Pump Benefits***

- First heat pump breadboard prototype operation down to 0°F
- Efficiencies and capacities measured leading to terminal delivery temperatures of over 10°F above electric heat pump
- Solution pump consumes less electrical power than any solution pump currently available

## Alpha Central Test Stand



**Pre-commercial Product Reliability Testing**

## Vested Commercial Partners of Rocky Research To Date

- Mississippi Energies
- Southern Natural Gas
- Southern California Gas
- Southwest Gas
- Williams SouthCentral
- ITT Heat Transfer
  - Early involvement
- Dectron Internationale
- FMC

and **U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**



# ITT Heat Transfer Ambian's OEM Partner

Nick Tranquilli  
ITT Heat Transfer  
Operations Manager  
Ambian Climate Technologies  
Product Line





## Role for ITT

- Design for manufacture
  - Work with Rocky Research to refine design for cost effectiveness and ease of manufacturing beginning with R&D phase
  
- ITT facilities
  - ITT provides superior facilities and work force needed for specialty heat exchanger components
  
- Customer equipment and processes
  - Establish custom process operations needed for specialty heat exchanger components



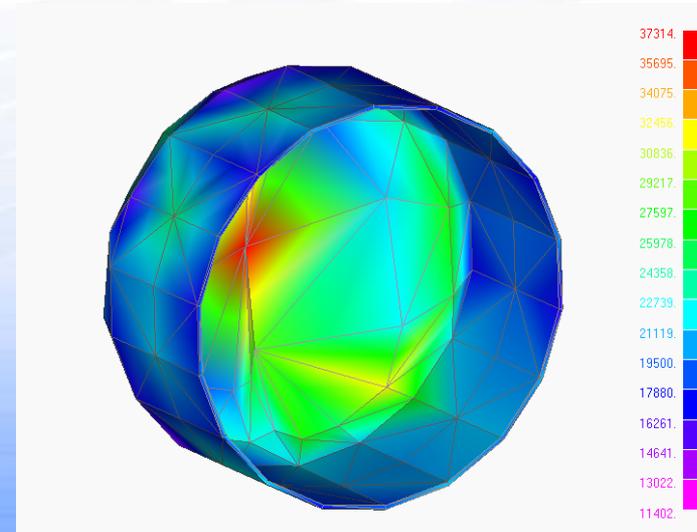
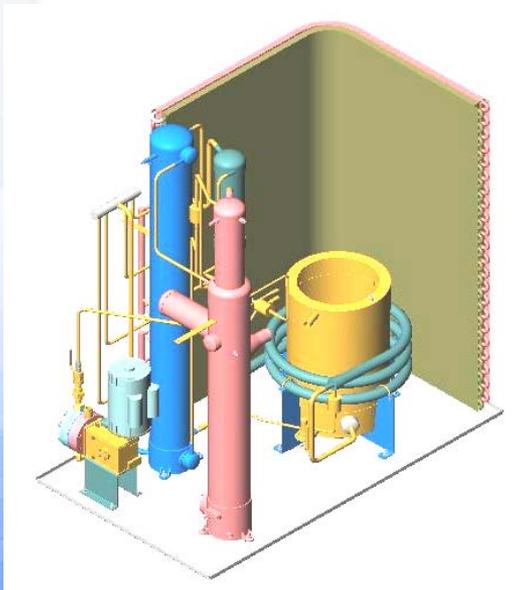
## Role for ITT (*continued*)

- Tolerances and specifications
  - Establish and monitor tolerances and specifications that meet **both** cost and performance objectives
  
- Quality control
  - Implement quality procedures and practices to assure highest quality system



## Design for Manufacture

- Use the latest 3-D CAD and analysis technology to minimize errors during assembly and manufacturing process





## ITT Facilities

- Provide necessary square footage for Production
- Use lean manufacturing techniques to provide work cells with optimal material handling and functionality





## ITT Facilities *(continued)*

- Utilize latest MRP system for inventory control
- Experienced work force with extensive knowledge of fabrication and welding. ASME Certified.



## Custom Equipment and Processes

- ITT has invested in specialized capital equipment to produce customized heat transfer components





## Custom Equipment and Processes *(continued)*

- Using latest in vacuum brazing technology to provide highest quality in enhanced surfaces





## Custom Equipment and Processes *(continued)*

- Procedures and equipment to provide optimal surfaces for maximum heat transfer





## Specifications and Tolerances

- ITT is using components fabricated during R&D phase to establish baseline of specifications and tolerances
- Baseline will be used for tolerance study to provide cost effective quality components to minimize assembly time



## Quality Control

- To insure components will be clean and free of grease, ITT has purchased a dedicated parts washer that degreases parts and leaves a residue of environmentally friendly rust inhibitor
- Flushing station is used at component level to rinse residual inhibitor and flush any particles accumulated during assembly



## Quality Control *(continued)*

- Sophisticated leak detection systems are used at component level as well as final assembly to insure a leak-tight sealed system to the customer



## Quality Control *(continued)*

- CNC Equipment is used on all crucial parts and components to assure accurate and repeatable results

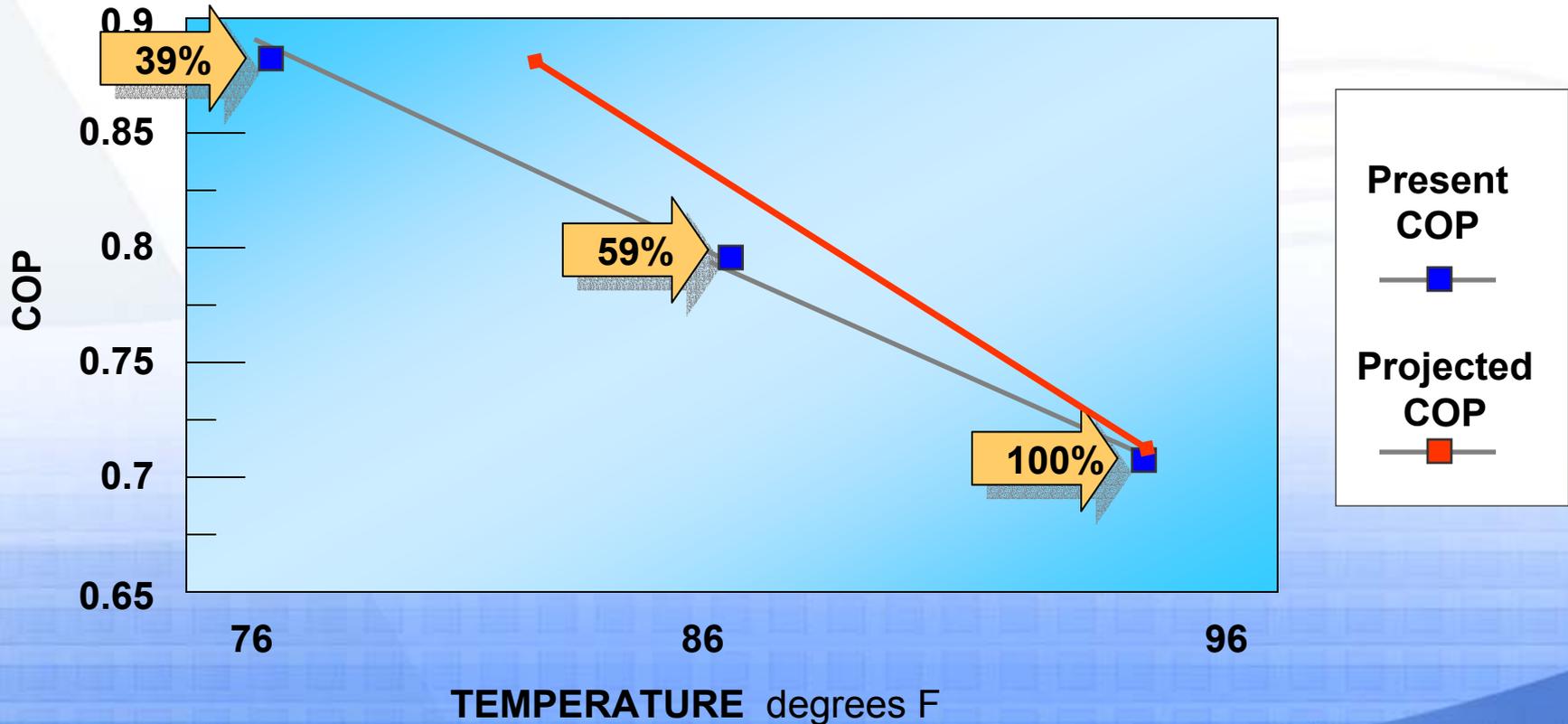


## Next 12 Months Engineering Improvements

- Reliability test completion of 5 RT Chiller
- Reliability testing of novel solution pump
- Packaged heating unit prototype
- Implementation of improved fluid controls
- Implementation of improved system controls
- Breadboard prototyping of reversing heat pump
- Performance improvement R&D



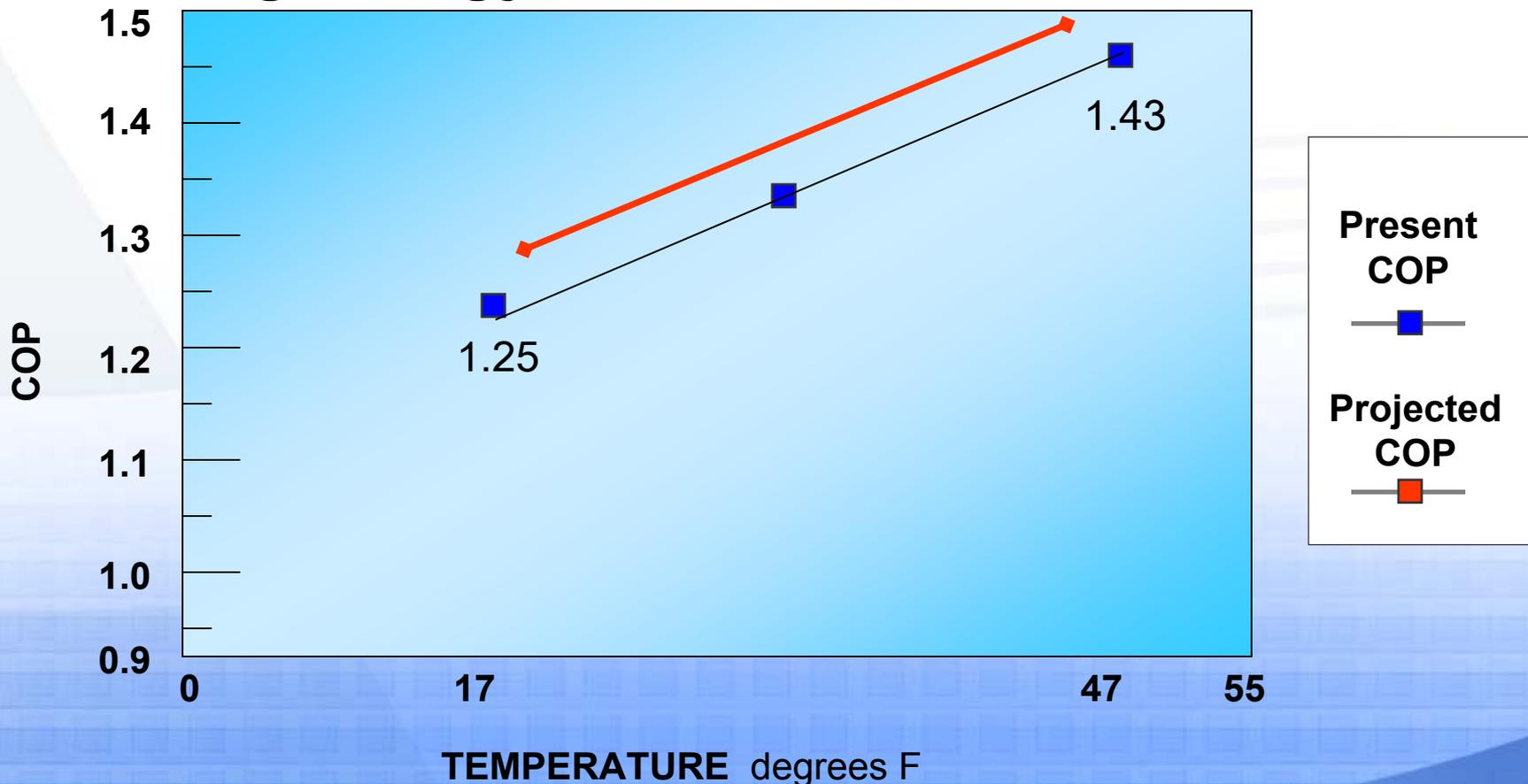
# Next 12 Months R&D Improvements *Cooling Energy Efficiencies*





## Next 12 Months R&D Improvements *(continued)*

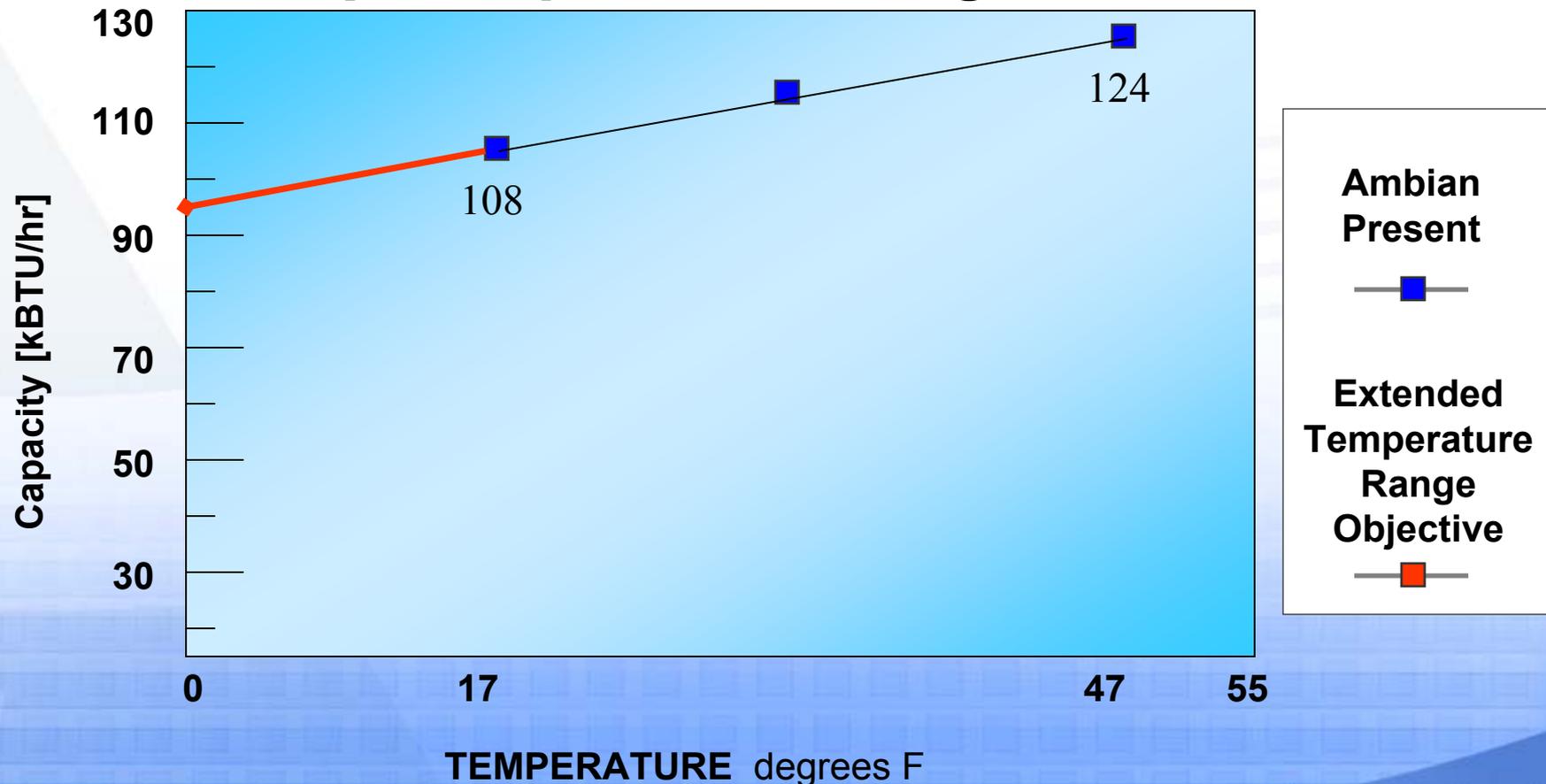
### *Heating Energy Efficiencies*





## Next 12 Months R&D Improvements *(continued)*

### *Heat Pump Temperature Range*





## Next 12 Months R&D Improvements *(continued)*

- Optimize electric parasitics on seasonal basis
  - Initial Goal: 1998                      225 W/RT
  - Today:                                      < 200 W/RT
  - 2003 Goal:                                < 160 W/RT



## Select Markets Identified as Suitable

- High-end residential
- High-end home remodeling
- Pool heating and dehumidification
- Medical clinics/physician offices
- Full-service restaurants
- Unitary absorption replacement

## Operating Cost-Sensitive Markets

- Commercial demand charge customer
- Most sunbelt states for cooling
- Heat Pump applicable throughout US (including northeast and mid-west)



## Summary of U.S. Market Potential

- Provided we will achieve
  - COPs
  - Capacities
  - Operating temperature range
  - Manufacturing efficiency

*Third party market research shows fifth year sales:*

- 41,000 units for selected market segments investigated
- 60,000 units based on first/operating economics

# Thermally Activated Technology

- Dramatically improved energy efficiencies
  - Reduced dependence on foreign oil
  - Reduced air pollution
- High electric reliability and quality
- Healthy indoor environment

**Building A Better Tomorrow**